[31st October 1933

Agriculture

Action taken on the report of the Royal Commission regarding peripatetic demonstrations.

* 181 *Q.*—Mr. A. HARISCHANDRUDU: With reference to Chapter VI of the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of demonstration plots cultivated during the last four years in each district under the guidance of the Agricultural Department in pursuance of the recommendation contained in paragraph 131;

(*b*) the number of peripatetic demonstrations given in each district in the year 1931-32 and 1932-33;

(*c*) in how many cases in each district have arrangements been made in 1931–32 and 1932–33 to hire out to the cultivators the more expensive implements and machinery in agriculture;

(*d*) whether the possibilities of a demonstration train have been considered by the department; if so, what the result is; and

(*e*) how many Better-Farming Societies have been established and where?

A.—(*a*) A statement[a] is appended.

(*b*) A circlewar statement[a] is appended. District figures are not available.

(*c*) The Government have no information.

(*d*) Yes; but it was considered that motor exhibition vans could do more intensive propaganda work than demonstration trains since the former can reach remote and interior villages.

(*e*) There were 12 agricultural demonstration societies in 1931–32 and 10 in 1932–33. These ten were working in the districts of Malabar, Tanjore and Trichinopoly.

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask why there has been such a paucity of demonstration plots in the North Arcot district while other districts have got as many as 120 and so on? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" There are only 23 plots in North Arcot. Probably people are not coming forward and showing interest in the matter."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" Will Government consider the advisability of increasing the number of plots? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" I shall instruct the officer concerned to increase the number of plots."

[a] Printed as Appendix III on pages 239–240 infra.